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PATENT APPLICATION
Docket No. 7678.599.1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of)
Norbert Abels, et al.)
Serial No.: 10/774,197) Art Unit
Filed: February 6, 2004) 3732
Conf. No.: 6975)
For: SELF-LIGATING ORTHODONTIC)
BRACKETS INCLUDING A METAL)
LIGATION COVER HINGEDLY)
CONNECTED TO A BRACKET BASE)
Examiner: John J. Wilson)
Customer No.: 022913)

TERMINAL DISCLAIMER

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Declarant, John M. Guynn, represents that he is the Attorney of Record for the Applicants, Norbert Abels, and Claus H. Backes, having their residence and mailing addresses at Talstraße 7, 66424 Homburg, Germany, and St. Wendler Straße 45 66113 Saarbrücken, Germany, and represents that the Applicants are the owners of the entire right, title and interest in and to the above-identified application, and also of U.S. Patent Nos. 6,607,383; 6,616,444; and 6,654,766. Declarant hereby certifies to the best of the Declarant's knowledge and belief, title is in the Applicants seeking to take action.

The Applicants hereby disclaim the terminal part of any patent granted on the above-identified application, which would extend beyond the expiration date of the full statutory term

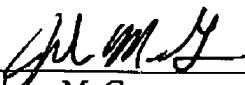
of U.S. Patent Nos. 6,607,383, 6,616,444 and 6,654,766, and hereby agrees that any patent so granted on the above-identified application shall be enforceable only for and during such period that the legal title to said patent shall be the same as the legal title to U.S. Patent Nos. 6,607,383, 6,616,444 and 6,654,766, this agreement to run with any patent granted on the above-identified application and to be binding upon the grantee, its successors or assigns.

The Applicants do not disclaim any terminal part of any patent granted on the above-identified application that would extend beyond the term of U.S. Patent Nos. 6,607,383, 6,616,444 and 6,654,766, in the event that U.S. Patent Nos. 6,607,383, 6,616,444 and 6,654,766 later: (a) expire for failure to pay a maintenance fee, are held unenforceable, are found invalid, are statutorily disclaimed in whole or terminally disclaimed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(a); (b) have all claims cancelled by a reexamination certificate; or (c) are otherwise terminated prior to the expiration of their statutory terms as presently shortened by any terminal disclaimer, except for the separation of legal title stated above.

Declarant further declares that all statements made herein of Declarant's own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful, false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful, false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

DATED this 8th day of December 2004.

By:


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